

## THE NEW PLAYS

"On With the Dance"  
Vicious Melodrama.

BY CHARLES DARTON.

ACCORDING to Alexander Pope, quoted on the programme at the Republic Theatre last night, "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien as to be hated, needs but to be seen."

As a matter of fact, vice is the stock-in-trade of certain playwrights who pander to sensationalism. The aim of it all is that it "needs but to be seen" from the point of view offered by the box-office. For this reason alone it is revealed to our expectant eyes. But the game has been played so long that it seems to be played out.

"On With the Dance," contrived by Michael Morton and produced by A. H. Woods, is merely vicious melodrama. It suggests a dance-crazed Broadway with a Wall Street angle. But the play seems a bit old-fashioned for the reason that the dance is no longer the mad thing it was a few years ago. Mr. Morton, in his play, reminds one of an old man making frantic efforts to catch up with the dance hall, as he calls it, in its wild whirl of other nights.

It remained for us to see the dancing wife of a tireless business man in bed—chaste sight!—while he disturbed her with cries for his collar button. He called for a cocktail before breakfast, and she drank it.

A cocktail at any price these days is bad enough, but before breakfast it must be ruinous. If it didn't go to Mrs. Lawrence's head it was sure to go to her bare feet, for she had the dancing fever in its most violent form, and moreover two or three people called her on the phone early in the morning to keep her gay life at top speed. Sutherland, powerful in Wall Street, hustled around to see her as soon as her husband got away, and despite the unromantic hour did his best to interest her sentimentally. Then he put her into a "deal" most unselfishly, with the result that she tucked \$5,000 into her bosom when he came back in the evening. The dinner party she had arranged didn't appeal to her husband, but he changed his clothes and went to a dance club, where he shot and killed Sutherland with a pistol, seized from a woman who had soon better days, though still looking robust. There were no consequences. The play ended strangely and abruptly.

Eileen Huban, whose delightful performance in "The Grasshopper" gained her distinction here, figured prettily as the vain, silly wife, but she employed an Irish accent one better day, though still looking robust. There were no consequences. The play ended strangely and abruptly.

"BAB'S BURGLAR,"  
DELIGHTFUL SCREEN  
PICTURE AT STRAND

When "Bab" adventured into the automobile field to replenish a depleted allowance, things happened with startling rapidity. In "Bab's Burglar," a picture of another of Mary Roberts Rinehart's "Sub Deb" stories, shown on the screen at the Strand last night, Marguerite Clark demonstrated many new motor-car possibilities, most of them based on the check-writing ability of the owner.

As the confident amateur driver, who depended on a book of instructions for her knowledge of running a car, Bab gayly wrecked fences and milk wagons and then contrived paid fines from the check book that led

added to the gaiety. The Strand Symphony Orchestra played Gounod's "Hilarious" Herbert Waterous sang "The Lost Chord," and Grace Hoffman sang "Caro Nome" from "Rigoletto." Victor Moore and some attractive young women were seen in the comedy "Faint Heart and Fair Lady," and there was another interesting bird study in addition to the usual topical review.

## EASIER FOR "MOVIES."

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—An informal decision was made by the Treasury Department that the footage tax of one-fourth of 1 per cent. on motion picture films will not be assessed every time the picture is rented. A delegation of "movie" men said a tax applied every time a picture is rented, as many had construed the act, would kill the business.

The decision of the Treasury is based on the same reasoning as that upon which the tax on automobiles and musical instruments is applied only once. The word "sold," as applied to the film, was interpreted as meaning "sold or leased," and also as meaning the first time the film is sold or leased.

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